

# CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91125

DIVISION OF BIOLOGY 156-29

October 7, 1977

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
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Stanford, California 94305

Dear Josh:

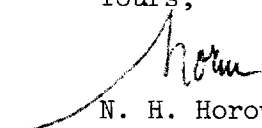
Sterling Emerson was in the other day, and he told me of your search for information on the beginnings of Neurospora research at Stanford. I don't know whether I ever responded usefully to your earlier request to me for any documentary data I might have in the way of letters or notes. I have looked for these and have found none in my files, which doesn't surprise me, since I try to live on a constant-volume basis as regards correspondence. In any case, I am pretty sure that Beets never wrote to me about the origins of the experiments. He often spoke about them, however, and the account he gave was the same as that in his "Recollections" in the 1974 Ann. Rev. Biochem., namely, that he got the idea while daydreaming in one of Ed's classes.

Sterling also raised a question about when the Neurospora experiments began. I was at Stanford as a National Research Council Fellow in 1939-40 and saw Beets frequently and also, I think, met Ed for the first time. (I was working in Whitaker's lab, however). Beets and Ed were still working on Drosophila in the spring of 1940, when I went to Pacific Grove to finish my postdoctoral year there. I am quite sure that they had not started work with Neurospora when I departed Palo Alto, although they may have been planning it by then. If so, they did not mention it to me.

I wish I could be more helpful. Ed was very quiet and worked at the far end of the basement on his own problems. He had Dave Bonner with him and Laura Garnjobst, and some students. Beets and the rest of us were separated from them by 100 feet or so of hallway.

With best wishes,

Yours,

  
N. H. Horowitz  
Chairman